


The Otterbein Home Church

**UPDATED HISTORY
1968 - 1977**



Campus Center
Chapel



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THE OTTERBEIN HOME CHURCH

1968 - 1977

Researched and Written

by

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Resident of Otterbein Home and
Member of the Church

Otterbein Home church, in existence since 1914, began to look toward greatly increased membership and new facilities as expansion plans for Otterbein Home itself were initiated in 1967. The Home and church are separate organizations but their interests and goals are interrelated. The church is in the Wilmington district of West Ohio Conference, United Methodist. Its minister is assigned by the bishop and his cabinet.

It was on March 18, 1973 that the new chapel in the Campus Center was used for church services for the first time. Consecration of the Campus Center and the village courts did not take place until June 24, 1973.

At the March 18 service, Dr. William Messmer, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home, and administrative assistant to Bishop Gerald Ensley, was the principal speaker. This service preceded the annual Board meeting.

The church bulletin of the day, however, gives no indication that this was the day of the first service in the chapel, except the closing hymn, titled "We Built a Sanctuary Sure."

We built a sanctuary sure
 It stands on sacred sod
 A church erected to endure,
 The temple of our God.
 We come to worship in this place
 With aspiration high.
 It is the consecrated place
 Where God Himself draws nigh.

Hymnals used in that first service were red-backed. They had been purchased in 1967 with a memorial fund given by the family of Rev. John Oehlerking, a resident of the Home. A chalice for the communion table was also purchased from the same fund.

The bulletin does contain a notice of a "State of Otterbein" address to be given at 7:00 P.M. by Charles K. Dilgard, administrator of Otterbein Home. Another source shows that this was an open meeting of the Board of Trustees, to which residents and employees of Otterbein Home were invited.

ALL PURPOSE ROOM

The next evening, March 19, tables were set up in the chapel, and a Recognition Dinner for Home employees was served there. Microphones in the chapel carried music and speeches to the dining room, where the overflow crowd was seated.

At this dinner four employees, who had given long and faithful service to Otterbein, were given special recognition. Mr. and Mrs. Roger (Grace) Cole, co-managers of the laundry; Mrs. Mamie Lane, housekeeping; and Glenn Kessler, farm crew, were honored. Mrs. Lane and Mr. Kessler were retiring. Mr. Cole retired in January, 1975.

These two occasions, following the first church service, pointed up the fact that the room commonly called the chapel, is actually an all-purpose room in which religious services are held. Provisions of the Hill-

Burton act, under which Otterbein received \$600,000 toward cost of the Campus Center, required that none of the money could be used for construction of a church only. This is in accord with federal law requiring separation of church and state.

Numerous entertainments, musicals, films and lectures have been held in the chapel since that first use on March 18 and 19, 1973.

It is appropriate to note here that it was on March 19, 1973 that ground breaking for three new residence halls -- Albright, Asbury and Newcomer -- took place at 4:00 P.M., preceding the dinner of recognition for employees.

HYMNALS

On February 27, 1973, Arza Hall, at a meeting of the Administrative Board, moved that the Board look with favor on the idea of purchase of new hymnals. Seconded by Harry May, the motion was accepted.

A special asking for funds for new hymnals followed. Announcement was made that individuals could make personal donations of \$3.75 each for as many hymnals as desired. In recognition of each donation, a bookplate bearing the name of the honoree and the name of the donor could be placed in a hymnal. A hymnal so purchased could be kept by the donor or given to the church.

A total of \$224.08 was collected in this fund, according to report of the financial

secretary for the second quarter of 1973.

More hymnals were needed, however. These were purchased from general church funds. They are still in use in 1977. They were first used May 6, 1973, when they were dedicated in an official ceremony taken from the United Methodist Board of Publication.

These hymnals do not contain the closing hymn used at the first service in the new chapel, "We Built a Sanctuary Sure," but do contain the first hymn of that day, "For the Beauty of the Earth."

PLANNING THE CHAPEL

Thruout planning for the new Campus Center, a chapel was included in the architect's drawings. Originally the chapel was shown as located in the space now occupied by the library and Marble room. It was soon recognized that much larger space would be required to take care of increased population of the Home, and consequent growth in church needs.

A much larger dining area than was on the original plan also was needed. Therefore, in successive revisions, an addition to the south side of the building was drawn in to provide for both needs. The plan finally accepted called for the folding partition between dining room and chapel, to allow creation of space needed for special events.

In the beginning there was some uncertainty whether the lower (basement) level

of the Campus Center could be completed. Therefore a folding partition about half way between the front and back of the chapel area, was included. This was to have provided space at the back for certain activities, including crafts. It would have been an awkward arrangement, necessitating much handling of materials, as they would have had to be put out for use and returned to cabinets at the end of the day. Frequent rearrangement of furniture to accommodate audiences, was also indicated.

After it was found that the lower level could be completed, with the craft department, beauty and barber shops, therapy room, etc., installed down there, the folding partition was retained. It is used at times when a small gathering can assemble in the front of the room, making for closer contact with a speaker than if the audience was scattered thruout the larger area. It also conserves energy when heating or cooling is required.

HOUSEKEEPERS MAKE READY

As work on the Campus Center progressed and a date for occupancy was tentatively set, an augmented crew of housekeepers followed close after the construction crew. There were times, however, when the construction crew returned after the cleaning was done, and then a repeat cleaning was necessary.

One vexing problem was leakage of steam from the kitchen thru the wall back of the organ. Several attempts at correction were made before the problem was solved. Each visit of the repair crew meant a return of the housekeepers for another clean-up.

Carpet for the chapel arrived later than expected, but the housekeeping crew cleaned it as fast as it was laid. Mrs. Warren (Ruth) McMichael, executive housekeeper, directed these operations.

The total clean-up was done by the regular staff of housekeepers, plus numerous part-time workers, and some residents who volunteered. Because of these whirl-wind efforts, it was decided to hold the first service in the new chapel on March 18, in conjunction with the Board meeting, instead of some time in April, as had been anticipated.

Perhaps this accounts for the fact that the bulletin of March 18, 1973 makes no reference to this as the first service in the new chapel. As the weekly bulletin was prepared in advance, decision to hold the first service on that date may have been made after the bulletin was printed.

FINAL TOUCHES

As the move was made, palms were brought over from Phillippi to grace the platform. These palms had been donated to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Warren McMichael. They had delayed purchase of bases for the palms until a selection could be made in harmony with the new surroundings.

For several years the McMichaels had provided rented palms for Easter services. They made the purchase of a permanent gift about 1972, with the new chapel in mind.

Location of the chapel makes it possible

for many patients in the Health Center to attend services. Previously some of them had not been able to attend for several years. Volunteers from all over campus push wheel-chairs to and from the chapel, not only for church services, but for other programs.

GIFTS FOR CHAPEL

Gifts for the new chapel came from several sources. The new pulpit was given by Miss Christena Wahl and her sister, Mrs. Lucille Lowry, in memory of their father. The baptismal font was the gift of Mrs. Alice Weimer and her sister, Miss Ida Blaser, in memory of George Weimer. The communion table was provided by Rev. and Mrs. Marvin (Edith) Leist, honoring their parents. (Rev. Leist was pastor of the church at the time.) Miss Mary Lou Warner gave the lectern in memory of her parents. Two clergy chairs were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Scott, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Price, relatives of Mrs. Scott. In addition to the palms, Mr. and Mrs. Warren McMichael gave two flower stands in memory of their grandparents.

Mrs. Ina and Mrs. Florence Morris provided brass finish offering plates in memory of their husbands, Otto and Clifford Morris.

New green paraments were dedicated August 28, 1977 in memory of Ray Harvey, a resident of Otterbein Home, who died October 5, 1976.

A special account was set up by the treasurer, Charles Hoffman, to include miscellaneous donations. As of the fourth quarter of 1972 this account showed \$665.60.

The chancel furniture from Phillippi was given to Summerside U. M. Church near Cincinnati.

In minutes of the Council on Ministries meeting of June 22, 1972 there is a note that a new communion service of anodized brass finish with matching chalice and candlesticks was now in use. The new service had been given by the Friendship Class of Dayton First U. M. Church, who contributed \$240. It was used in Phillippi chapel before the new Campus Center chapel was ready. It is still in use in 1977. The superintendent of Wilmington district was asked to select a church to receive the old communion service.

SETTING FOR CROSS

The brick wall at the back of the chancel was designed especially to provide an effective setting for the large rugged cross. The cross was made by William Fisher, then one of the Home maintenance crew. The wood was more than 100 years old. It had been saved from one of the old Shaker buildings that had been demolished, probably Good Samaritan.

Mr. Fisher had come to work January 9, 1967. He made the cross within a few weeks after coming. It was hung over the communion table in Phillippi chapel. Before it was moved to Campus Center chapel, the cross was taken down and refinished by Rodney Miller, a resident of Cedar Court.

Visible as persons enter the main Campus Center entrance, the chapel and cross give

plain indication that Otterbein Home is a dedicated Christian community.

PIANOS

As the chapel was being furnished, a new Kimball upright piano was purchased with \$650 provided by the family of Dr. Daniel Corl, in his memory. Dr. Corl was for many years a member of the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home, and E. U. B. Sandusky district superintendent. This piano was used in the chapel for a time, but is now (1977) in Phillippi meeting room.

The Steinway grand piano presently in use in the chapel (1977) was purchased by the Otterbein Home Auxiliary for \$1000, and given to the Home about 1953. According to the memory of a long-time resident of the Home, this piano had been a gift to a young musician by her parents. The young woman died, and the parents made it possible for the Auxiliary to purchase the piano for much less than the original cost. In a bulletin of August 25, 1953 there is a note that "the new piano in the chapel is not to be used for practice." Children were taking music lessons.

In 1975 it was determined that this Steinway could be tuned and used for choir accompaniments. The case was refinished to conform to the new (as of 1973) furnishings in the chapel, by Jack McGuire of Centerville. The cost of \$600 was paid by Otterbein Home out of a fund for contracted repair of equipment.

ORGAN

Until 1960 the church had only a piano for musical accompaniments. On April 8, 1962,

however, a new Hammond electric organ was dedicated. It is still in use and bears a plaque "In Memorium: Mrs. Edith Hart, Mrs. Edith Allman, Mrs. Pearl Cole, Women's Auxiliary."

At the time Dr. V. H. Allman was superintendent of Otterbein Home. His wife, Edith, died while he was here. Mrs. Pearl Cole was the mother of Roger Cole, at that time co-manager of the laundry, now retired but giving much time as a part-time employee.

Mrs. Edith Hart was in charge of the clothing room for many years and did mending of household items. Her children contributed to the organ fund.

The Auxiliary contribution represented funds in that treasury when the Otterbein Home Auxiliary was disbanded, to be succeeded by the Midwest Homes Auxiliary.

ORGANISTS

After the organ was installed in 1960 (it was dedicated almost two years later) Mrs. Gilda Carter continued to play piano for prayer meetings, some church services (when an organist was not available) and for a variety of other gatherings.

She had studied with recognized teachers in her home city of New Orleans and was (and still is) an accomplished musician. By 1964, however, when she was 70 she yielded to her desire to learn to play the organ. Accordingly she studied with a professional, and thereafter she played organ regularly for church services until her health failed in 1972.

From the time she came to Otterbein Home

in 1943, with her husband, Mrs. Carter gave freely of her time and talent. She seldom missed mid-week prayer meeting. Altho she was an employee when she first came (house mother for little girls) and later house-keeper at old Bethany, she was never too tired to contribute music for any occasion. At present she lives in Albright Hall.

Robert Eshleman, one of the first residents to move into Redbud Court, continued as organist at Normandy U. M. Church, near Dayton, for more than a year after coming to Otterbein Home. After Mrs. Carter suffered a severe illness, Mr. Eshleman, who had been listed as assistant organist, became the regular organist at Otterbein as of July 1, 1973. Sometime later he also suffered a severe illness.

During that period Mrs. Thelma Hiers of Mason played regularly for a time. Mrs. Vivian Comfort, a resident of Maple Court, also played for numerous services. In October 1975 James Mills of Lebanon began regular service as organist until Mr. Eshleman was able to return late that year.

CHOIRS

In minutes of the Council on Ministries of October 18, 1971, there is a note that Howard Longmire was to be asked to organize and rehearse a choir whose members would be both residents and employees. Rehearsals were scheduled to start November 4, 1971. The Council appropriated \$300 for cleaning robes and stoles on hand, and for purchase of music.

At that time Mr. Longmire was a volunteer. In recent years, however, the church has appropriated money for his and Mrs. (Virginia) Longmire's services as a musical team. Mrs. Longmire is an accomplished pianist and organist, as well as gifted in arranging programs of considerable variety. The Longmires are employed by Otterbein Home respectively as personnel director and admissions counselor.

Over the years several different choirs were formed. After a time each choir was discontinued because of dwindling membership and sometimes because the leader could no longer serve. Such a leader usually had some musical training, but was not a professional musician. Then soloists would provide special music for church services for a while.

Since the Longmires have been leading and with the growth of the campus, however, the choir has grown in membership and musicianship. It presently has about 40 faithful members.

CANTATAS

December 17, 1972 was a notable occasion when the choir wore new red robes with white stoles and presented the cantata, "There'll Always Be A Christmas." Lyrics had been written by Rev. Frank Cross, a resident of Buckeye Court. The original plan had been for the choir to wear the new robes at the first service in the new chapel, but the plan

was changed to enable their use when Rev. Cross' cantata was given.

"There'll Always Be A Christmas" was repeated December 21, 1975.

On both occasions Phillippi Chapel was filled to overflowing with admirers of both the writer of the cantata and the choir and leaders.

Rev. Cross' Easter cantata "Now is Christ Risen" was sung by the choir on Good Friday, March 28, 1975 with Rev. Cross doing the narration. He also narrated the Easter cantata "No Greater Love" by another writer, on April 15, 1973.

Rev. Cross was associated for many years with Lorenz Music Publishing Co., Dayton. He has written several other cantatas, as well as hymns.

CHAIRS

Pews were used in Phillippi Chapel. They were donated by Fairview E.U.B. church, Dayton, in 1961, when that church was being completely rebuilt. In 1970, however, some of the pews broke down and the Administrative Board and Council on Ministries began looking for replacement. Realizing that the "chapel" in Campus Center would be actually an assembly room for general use, a search began for chairs that would allow flexible seating arrangements.

Eight different manufacturers sent sample chairs. Staff members and residents were asked to try each sample chair and express an opinion. Among those persons, some

were short, some tall, some heavy, some thin, some handicapped by arthritis or other disabilities.

At last a chair offered by the Tri-Par Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, was selected for sturdiness, arms that made rising easier, as well as comfortable padding and construction that made it possible to stack chairs not in use, thus conserving space. These chairs were made one inch lower than the sample.

The very considerable time and thought given to selection has paid off, as the chairs have been accepted by the whole congregation as exceptionally comfortable.

Ohio Southeast Conference (U. M., formerly E.U.B.) provided the greater part of the \$6300 cost of 210 chairs at \$30 apiece. Residents and workers were given opportunity to contribute to the chair fund, and the fund was further augmented from memorial funds that had been given to Otterbein Home.

The old pews from Phillippi Chapel were given to a small U. M. church near Hillsboro. Dr. Howard Spitnale, district superintendent, suggested this disposition, which both churches accepted cordially.

Enough chairs for seating in Phillippi Chapel were put to use at once, and the rest stored until the move was made to the Campus Center Chapel.

FINANCES

With increased population, new chapel, and more resources, the Otterbein Home church has enjoyed a much better financial status since 1973 than ever before.

Budget for 1976 church operation, mission and benevolent funds, was \$39,974. In 1977 the total budget was \$44,297. The operational budget was \$28,925. Pastor's salary was shown as \$13,400 plus travel, hospital insurance and other fringe benefits. These figures contrast sharply with those for 1967 when the total budget was shown as \$10,621.

The figures also reflect increased confidence in ability to meet each year's budget. Example: On February 15, 1974 a memorandum of agreement was drawn in which the Pastor-Parish committee recommended to the Finance committee and the Administrative Board that effective June 16, 1974 the church should assume the full cash support of the minister. While the 1974 cash salary for the minister was to be \$8,000, with pension, hospitalization, rent utilities and travel, the effective salary was \$11,650.

It was agreed that Otterbein Home would continue to provide a parsonage and its maintenance. Utilities were to be provided on the same basis as for staff personnel. The Home would serve as payroll agent, the church to reimburse the Home for such payments.

This agreement was approved by the Administrative Board and the Administrator of Otterbein Home. At that time Robert Roose was chairman of the Administrative Board;

Charles Hoffman, treasurer of the church; and Charles K. Dilgard, administrator of the Home.

CHAPEL FUND

The church bulletin of February 4, 1973 contained this item: "Designated gifts may be given thru the church for the new chapel fund."

Rev. Marvin Leist had come as pastor July 1, 1972. At meetings of the Administrative Board August 14 and September 26, 1972, Clarence Wentzel, treasurer, proposed that the congregation assume responsibility for \$75,000 of the cost of the new chapel in Campus Center. He pointed out that this amount represented considerably less than the cost of a new church building, and he proposed that it be paid out of regular church collections. "The public cannot be asked to support the Home unless residents are willing to make their own missionary contribution," Rev. Leist said. The proposal was adopted as part of the budget for the coming year.

Payments against this pledge were made in 1973 and have been consistently included in the budget every year since. As of August 1977, \$44,505 has been paid on the pledge.

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

For the past decade the Otterbein Home Church has included in its budget \$750 toward support of a missionary family overseas. This is sent to the Board of Global

Ministries of the United Methodist Church. The Roger Burtners, serving in Nigeria, were the first family so supported. They were succeeded by Rev. and Mrs. Duane Dennis, who left Nigeria because of the tense political situation. In 1970, however, the support was designated for Rev. and Mrs. Noel Osborn, in the Phillipines, and this has continued.

At the beginning of a new quadrenium in 1977 the Otterbein Home Church also included a separate local item of \$561 for support of Red Bird Mission, in Kentucky. In past years the Conference Advance contribution had included Red Bird, but Otterbein Home has special interest in that mission because several of its staff formerly worked at Red Bird. In 1974 and 1977 each, a busload of Otterbein residents visited Red Bird. They became aware first hand of the work on behalf of Kentucky young people.

RELATIONSHIP: HOME AND CHURCH

Relationship between the Home and the church is indicated in reports of the successive treasurers of the church.

In December 1969, for instance, Clarence Wentzel, then treasurer, proposed that a balance of only \$2000 be carried over into the new year, and that the remainder of the funds on hand be turned over to the Home. In December 1971 the church refunded \$1800 to the Home, representing money that had been appropriated in 1970 to help the church.

In 1970 the treasurer reported that all askings had been paid 100%. In 1971 he reported that the church had been able to pay

the pastor's salary and travel expense, and the salary of a janitor for the chapel. In 1972 he suggested that these expenses be included in the budget and that the church also reimburse the Home for secretarial assistance to the pastor. In 1975 it was reported that the church had given \$4000 in benevolent funds beyond the conference quotas, and that \$10,044 had been paid on the chapel fund.

REASON FOR PROSPERITY

It is a constant source of amazement to all connected with the church that such sizeable budgets can be met each year with occasional surpluses.

Charles Hoffman, treasurer since 1970, believes that this achievement is due to the fact that Otterbein Home not only has grown in population, but that this population is largely made up of persons who have been active in their home community churches for many years. They are "givers," having been accustomed to giving to the church as a way of life.

This has been true of Otterbein Home Church since its organization. When the population was not much more than one-fourth what it is now (1977) it was a constant cause for wonderment to the financial secretary and treasurer as they counted the collections, that so much money came in each week. It may not have been sufficient to meet the budget, some years, but it represented dedicated giving by the church members.

The financial picture had been grim on May 7, 1963 when it was reported that "our

expenses have increased to the amount we cannot see how we can meet our obligations for the coming year." It was voted to have Frank Robinson, vice chairman of the Council of Administration, contact the conference superintendent "to see if he has any solution to our situation."

For the next several years the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home paid the difference between what could be raised by the church, and the necessary expenditures. With only about 130 residents of the Home, most of whom had very limited resources, proportion of income that many of them gave to the church, was a source of constant amazement. The same was true of the Women's Society of Christian Service, and the E.U.B. Men's group.

CHAPLAIN?

September 26, 1967 at a meeting of the Pastor-Parish committee, the suggestion that Otterbein Home have a chaplain was considered. Present were Frank Robinson, chairman, Mrs. Lena Rabuck, Miss Mary McKenzie, Miss Florence Clippinger, and Charles K. Dilgard, administrator of the Home.

On November 8, 1967 the matter of chaplaincy was presented to the Local Conference. After a rather lengthy discussion, the matter was put to vote. Of the 19 members present, 10 voted to remain as a church, and 9 voted in favor of chaplaincy.

The church has remained an autonomous organization ever since.

PASTORS

Rev. Charles W. Peckham, a native of West Lima, Wisconsin, was assigned to the Otterbein Home Church in June 1966. Since 1958 he had been Minister of Christian Education at First U. M. Church, Dayton. Previously he had served pastorates at San Bernardino, California and Kenosha, Wisconsin. He was a graduate of Indiana Central University. He attended United Theological Seminary, Dayton, in 1951-54, receiving a Master of Divinity degree. In 1959-62 he returned to the Seminary and graduated with a Master's of Sacred Theology.

From 1962-67 he taught, part-time, the Christian Education courses at Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, Ohio. In 1972 he became adjunct professor of United Theological Seminary courses on Ministering to Aging, and he continues in this capacity.

At the time he came to Otterbein Home Church, he was taking courses at the University of Cincinnati. He changed his major to Educational Foundations with emphasis on Gerontology. He graduated in August 1971 with a degree as Doctor of Education.

The Otterbein Home Church Administrative Board had voted in 1966 to allow him to be absent on Wednesday evening and such other times as were needed for him to attend classes. Upon graduation the church members presented him with a robe denoting his present status.

Dr. Peckham served as part-time program co-ordinator for the Home until February 1972 when Charles K. Dilgard, administrator of the

Home, proposed that a new pastor be obtained so that Dr. Peckham could become full-time program director. This was granted.

Thruout the years Dr. Peckham has done much counseling with individuals on family, marital, emotional, personal and school problems. He has received national recognition as a leader in the field of gerontology: Ohio State Commission on Aging Community Service Award, September 2, 1976; and that same month, recognition by the Ohio House of Representatives for Community and Public Service.

He is at present serving as president of Resident Activity Personnel in Ohio, as well as president of the Warren County Council on Aging. In other activities in the field of Christian education and gerontology he has also been honored nationally.

Mrs. Peckham (Arlene) is director of Social Services for Otterbein Home, a part of the Program Department of which Dr. Peckham is director. She is co-author with him in writing a book, "Thank You for Shaking My Hand." It is about the contribution of volunteers in service to the aged.

At the time the Peckhams came to Otterbein Home, the old parsonage across the street from Bethany, was much in need of repair. They moved to the second house north of Clipper Street, and continue to live there.

Rev. Marvin Leist came to Otterbein Home Church in July 1972 from New York City where he had been Executive Secretary of the United Methodist Development Fund and Executive Secretary of Church Expansion, for four years. Before the merger of the E.U.B. and Methodist

denominations he had served in a similar capacity at E.U.B. headquarters in Dayton, for six years.

Previous to entering the ministry, Rev. Leist had been manager of a Credit Corporation having 23 offices in six states, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. He prepared for the ministry by studying at Kent State University Western Reserve, and Columbus Business College, at the same time serving Sawyerwood Church at Akron, Ohio.

After two years he became business manager of Malone College, Cleveland, and then returned to the ministry. He was executive secretary of Missions and Church Extension in East Ohio E.U.B. conference for three years before going to Dayton.

In June 1974 he retired and with his wife, Edith, moved to Florida where they still live.

Rev. Gordon Core and his wife, Odessa, came to Otterbein Church in 1974. Rev. Core was born in Richland County, Wisconsin. His conversion to Christ took place at the Boaz United Brethren Church at the age of 12. In 1938, as a result of his having expressed a call to the ministry, the Boaz congregation, in a quarterly conference over which J. Hart Truesdale officiated, voted him a "license to preach."

(Rev. Truesdale was a brother of Mrs. Ethel Gillingham, at present a patient in the Health Center. Mrs. Gillingham and her husband, and Mrs. Nell Truesdale, widow of J. Hart Truesdale, all came to Otterbein at the same time. Mrs. Truesdale was a patient in

the Health Center at the time of her death. Previously she had lived in Phillippi.)

After receiving his B. A. degree at Indiana Central College in 1943, and his Master of Divinity degree from Bonebrake Seminary in Dayton in 1946, Rev. Core was ordained at a session of Wisconsin Conference, United Brethren denomination, on August 11, 1946. Bishop Fred Dennis (president of the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home, 1954-58) and Dr. George McAhren (at present a resident of Dogwood Court) officiated at the ordination by Dr. Walter N. Roberts, later president of United Theological Seminary.

Rev. Core served 12 years in Wisconsin at Viola, Clintonville and Brillion. In 1958 he and Mrs. Core moved their family to Ohio, where he served at Englewood E.U.B. and Dayton Oak Street E.U.B., now U. M. churches.

He and Mrs. Core hope to retire from cabinet assignment in 1980 and then continue living at Otterbein Home, with Rev. Core serving as an associate to the newly assigned pastor.

ASSISTANT PASTORS

Several assistant pastors have come to the church since 1972. Some of them have been students at United Theological Seminary, Dayton: Paul Kaufman, Bruce Pilcher, Mrs. Patricia Toschak and Mark Jacobs. Other assistants or associates have been Rev. Howard Pettit, Rev. Charles Farthing and Rev. Charles Fox. Rev. Pettit and Rev. Fox have lived on campus.

Student assistants have been paid an hourly rate. Mrs. Toschak received \$1080, having worked 20-hour weeks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Otterbein Home Sunday School is somewhat unique in that there is no central organization, but each of the seven classes is an independent group. After children left the Home, adults only were left to attend Sunday School. As expansion began, however, the number of these adults greatly increased, so that more classes were needed.

Cum Join Us. Originally this class was made up of residents of Phillippi, cottages, Bethany and some of the first residents of village apartments.

There were several teachers during the first few years. About 1966, however, Mrs. Mabel Sheneman began as teacher and has taught ever since.

For some time the class met in the pastor's study in Phillippi, but became so large that it was divided, and some of the members joined the Good Cheer class taught by Arza Hall.

After the move to the Campus Center, the Cum Join Us class met first in the Marble Room, but later moved to the Gerontology class room in Phillippi where it still meets.

Currently there is an enrollment of 22 with most of the members attending regularly. They enter into discussions with great interest.

Adult Bible Lessons, the International Lesson Series put out by the United Methodist denomination, is used.

Good Cheer class came into being June 6, 1971. Its membership came largely from new Otterbein residents, altho some of these had attended the former classes.

Arza Hall was the first teacher of the "Good Cheer" class and continues as teacher. However, in recent months he has asked someone in the class to take over the teaching the first Sunday of every month. He initiated the change, he says, because this offers a change of approach and adds interest on the part of the membership.

There is a class roster of 40 names with an average attendance of 32 per Sunday. The class has a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, each elected in December for one year.

A planned Christmas collection has been taken for the past two years, 1975-6 with \$100 turned over to Otterbein Home each year. This is in addition to the regular Sunday School offerings.

Adult Bible Studies are used. Members are urged to participate in discussions and the response has been gratifying.

Lamplighters class originated in Bethany some years before the 1976 remodeling. Mrs. Agnes Myers was the teacher. In 1970 Mrs. Flossie Hutton became assistant teacher. After Mrs. Myers' health failed, Mrs. Hutton became the teacher and has continued ever since.

Adult Bible Studies are used for the lesson. Before each session a short prayer service is held on behalf of residents of the Home who have special needs. Then comes a hymn followed by a discussion of the lesson, in which there is always good participation. The class meets in Albright Lounge.

Searchers class was organized in 1973 as a discussion group of Otterbein Home staff members. Now, in 1977, it is in its third year. Since the fall of 1974 it has been open to anyone interested in a discussion group. It pursues an independent study course, led by Dr. and Mrs. J.R. (Betsy) Howe, who have been co-leaders from the first.

A list of several possible areas of study is presented to the class each autumn, by an activities committee. From this list the class chooses by vote what subject to take up, with an alternate subject also indicated. Studies of the Prophets, Gospel of Mark, Ten Commandments, courses of theology for laymen, patriotism and the Bible, Advent study, have been some of the subjects pursued.

With an average of 20-22, discussions are thought-provoking as participation is especially good.

The class discontinues Sunday sessions in June and resumes in September, this period corresponding to the calendar of the choir, many of whose members are in the class.

The Open Circle class meeting in Asbury dining area, is usually attended by 12 or more persons. Records show that it first met in April of 1975. "Jesus Loves Me" is a favorite of the members, and has been adopted

as the class hymn. It is sung at each session. Adult Bible Studies are used.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKeever, co-teachers, began October 3, 1976. They report good participation in discussions.

Friendship Class was organized by Miss Florence Clippinger and met in the old Philippi chapel from about 1966 to 1973, when they moved to the library in Campus Center. Membership is about evenly divided between village residents and those from the wings. It has no formal organization, and no social meetings.

Keith Crane taught the class from 1973 until June 1977, when he retired. The class then disbanded as of June 1977. Miss Clara Sippel served as secretary as long as her health permitted. Thereafter a different member served as secretary from time to time.

Newcomer Sunday School Class was formed soon after the first residents moved into that hall. Everett Thompson of Apple Court has been its teacher from the first.

Attendance varies from Sunday to Sunday, depending upon the health of the members. Newcomer is an intermediate nursing area, where residents are somewhat less able to look after themselves than those in the other wings. Rev. Thompson reports, however, that there is good participation by those present.

Adult Bible Studies are used as the basis for study and discussion.

TV CHANNEL 4

April 1, 1973 the church bulletin contained the suggestion that persons unable to attend services in the chapel could listen on closed circuit TV Channel 4. The TV installation was a part of the total expense of equipping the chapel.

In Administrative Board minutes of May 14, 1974 there is a note that Mr. and Mrs. Howard Slee of Redbud Court has contributed additional sound equipment to provide better audio in the chapel.

In 1977 the Otterbein Home Auxiliary gave the church a new TV camera. This provides a varied view of the chapel and a much clearer picture. The Auxiliary raised funds for this camera and other audio-visual equipment. The total amount raised was \$6500.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

United Methodist Women is an over-all title. Within its membership in the Otterbein Home unit are five circles named for five women closely associated with the Home, who have been missionaries in foreign lands.

The Otterbein organization, like all U.M. units, can claim membership in a chain of organizations - Wilmington district, the West Ohio Conference, the North Central Jurisdiction, and the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries, all working in general missionary outreach. Thus it follows the structure of United Methodist women thruout the 35,000 units in all 50 states.

Mrs. Everett (Ruth) Overturf is president of the Otterbein unit (1977). She was formerly vice president of the Wilmington District U.M. Women. Before coming to Otterbein Home she was experienced in United Methodist Women's work in the Western New York conference, as a member of the executive team and in other leadership positions in that organization.

PROGRAM PLANNING

It is a matter of some pride that the Otterbein Home unit U.M.W. has a "maximum structure" of officers. Its program always tries to touch on some aspect of the basic purpose -- "to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God-- to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission thru participation in the global ministries of the church."

The national office produces a program booklet in which as many as 25 program subjects may be suggested. Each local unit is expected to pick a topic and adapt it to local use. "Response," the national magazine, also offers program suggestions for local adaptation.

Co-ordinator for the five programs used by Otterbein Home circles is always the vice president of the U.M.W. of the Otterbein church. Thus a program for one circle may be--and usually is--presented to each of the other active circles, making for uniformity of information and participation.

United Methodist Women at Otterbein hold four general meetings per year, with each circle meeting once each month between general

meetings. The February general meeting is usually about prayer and self-denial; May, fellowship; July, personal appearance of a missionary (usually one home on furlough from a foreign land, and often someone related to a resident of the Home); November, thank offering pledge and installation of officers.

Since most of the women at Otterbein Home have been active in missionary societies in their home churches, they attend circle meetings in large numbers, and contribute liberally to mission projects. Each U.M.W. unit makes a pledge to the total district budget.

CIRCLES

GLADYS WARD CIRCLE meets in the afternoon. This circle is successor to the original missionary society formed at Otterbein Home soon after the church was organized in 1914. For a long time there was only one missionary circle at the Home.

Gladys Ward was born in China during her parents' lifetime service there. They were Rev. and Mrs. E.B. Ward. After they retired they lived out their days at Otterbein Home. Gladys Ward has visited here many times.

Gladys Ward followed her parents into missionary service. She lived and worked in Kowloon, China. She "retired" in 1969 but for some time has been teaching and living at Alliance Bible Seminary at Cheung Chau, N.T., Hong King. To her, China is home, since she has lived there all her life.

MARY HOUGH CIRCLE is named for one who was known as the "Great Woman of Missions." She served in Africa with her first husband,

I.E. Albert, from 1899 to 1903. After his death she returned to the United States, and in 1914 married S.S. Hough, executive secretary of the U.B. Board of Missions, and later executive secretary of the denominational Council of Administration.

Mrs. Hough's participation in missionary service included work as editor of the Women's Evangel, later call "The Evangel"; trustee and vice president, then president of the U.B. Women's Missionary Association. She was a member of the U.B. Women's Council, serving as secretary of Spiritual Life after the merger with the Evangelicals in 1946.

For five years she was chairman of the World Day of Prayer committee of the E.U.B. denomination, and president of the Women's Council following her service as its secretary of Spiritual Life.

She wrote "Faith That Achieved," a history of the Women's Missionary Association of the U.B. denomination. It was published in 1958.

Mrs. Hough came to Otterbein Home June 2, 1971 as a patient in the Health Center. She died here December 14, 1973.

NORA VESPER CIRCLE meets in the evening. It was formed some years ago to provide employees of the Home opportunity to participate in missionary study.

Miss Vesper was a registered nurse. She served at Rotifunk, Sierra Leone, Africa, for 20 years. She lived at Otterbein during two different periods. She worked here for 11 months in 1949-50, then returned to Africa.

After coming back to this country the second time, she lived in Bethany, and in 1959 worked again as a nurse for a short time.

She went to Ashland, her family home, for a visit and decided to move to a new home which had opened in Ashland. She died in Ashland in April 1976.

She and Miss Mary McKenzie were in Africa at the same time, were friends, and were able to meet occasionally.

MARY MC KENZIE CIRCLE has two chapters, one on second floor and the other on third floor of the Health Center.

Miss McKenzie served for 20 years in Sierre Leone, and returned permanently to the United States only because of health problems. She began at Otterbein Home in 1950, as assistant bookkeeper. Later she was treasurer of the Home until 1966, after which she was admissions counsellor until health necessitated her complete retirement.

Always active in missionary circles, she was treasurer of the Miami Conference Branch of the W.M.A. (E.U.B.) for several years.

She lived on campus with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Crites. After the death of both of them, she lived in several locations, in each helping newcomers, during the expansion program, to settle and adjust to the Home.

She is at present (1977) a patient in the Health Center.

ZORA THOMPSON CIRCLE was formed in 1975 to give patients in Newcomer hall an opportunity to participate, since many of them are unable to attend other circles. This circle meets the last week of each month. Attendance varies according to the health of the members on that day. It is the privilege of any member to attend another circle if she so desires and is able to do so.

Mrs. Thompson and her husband, Everett, residents of Apple Court, spent 42 years as missionaries and social workers in Japan. During World War II they served in Japanese internment camps in Idaho and as social workers in Vietnam during that war.

Their experiences were recounted August 6, 1977, when their 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated. Altho they had been married in January 1927, the celebration was delayed until August so that their son, Larry, and his family could be present. Other relatives and friends from some distance were also present. Larry Thompson works in International Relations for the Church and Social Workers in Japan. He has three sons.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

United Methodist Men of Otterbein Home held their first meeting February 21, 1977. They now have a certificate of recognition from the Division of Lay Life and Work, of the Board of Discipleship of Ohio West Conference, U.M.

They initiated a year of monthly programs definitely outlined with some notable speakers including: Hal McCoy, sports writer for the

Dayton Daily News, who travels with the Cincinnati Reds; Bill Haynes, agricultural extension agent of Warren County; Rev. Howard Spitnale, formerly superintendent of Wilmington district U.M., now of Troy; Dr. Robert Fugate, Avionic engineer from Wright-Patterson Air Force Laboratory; Torrey Kaatz, nationally known lay leader of West Ohio conference; Fred Voekel of Ohio Presbyterian Homes, Columbus, who was an administrator of youth work under Hitler in Germany; Arthur Bauer, Otterbein Home resident, with films of life in India off the tourist track; an appearance of the Scottish Rite choir of Dayton; and on the lighter side, a trip to a ball game at Cincinnati; and a home-made ice-cream social following a talk by Dr. W.E. Chaney. No meeting is scheduled for December.

Clarence Young is chairman of the group. Program committee: Dr. Harry Kalas, chairman, Rev. Gordon Core, Howard Longmire, Dr. George McAhren and Arthur Bauer. Keith Crane is secretary; Warren McMichael, treasurer.

Rev. Glenn Biddle, founder of the Jackson (Ohio) Area Ministries, was a speaker in the fall. Purchase of a van was made by the Jackson Ministries, on faith, because it was so much needed immediately. The Otterbein U.M. Men pledged \$100 toward that project, as part of the contribution made by the church.

United Methodist Men of Otterbein Home is a successor to at least two similar organizations which lapsed in former years.

There is a note in some church minutes of October 13, 1968, that the U.M. Men had made the first cash contribution of \$10 to a new building fund. Also, that month they had

sent an assortment of cards costing \$70.35 to the Lebanon Correctional Institution, so that inmates could send greetings to relatives and friends on birthdays, Christmas and other occasions.

The present club reflects increased population of the Home, in that it has an attendance between 60 and 80 at each monthly meeting.

RESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Residents' Council, originally called the Resident Members' Council, was organized by the administrator of the Home, Charles K. Dilgard, and the pastor who was at that time part-time program director, Rev. Charles W. Peckham.

The Council has become part of the program of the Home. Much of the activity of its member-committees centers around volunteer service. There are committees to provide birthday remembrances for patients in the Health Center, birthday parties for those in the various residential areas, observance of wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more, for flower and vegetable gardens, Christmas decorations, clothing "store," library, "The Wood Shed," campus flowers, devotions for meal times, and nominations.

It is not a policy-making body, but a part of the program of the Home.

The Residents' Bill of Rights originated with the Council and has become part of the policy statement of the Home.

SECOND MILE CONTRIBUTIONS

Besides support of "connectional ministries" specified by Ohio West Conference, and the missionary support mentioned, the church has, over the years, made second-mile contributions to a variety of causes.

Since 1967 employees and members of the church have contributed the cost of Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. A special collection is taken by means of envelopes distributed thru the mail. It is used to provide baskets of food for disadvantaged families in the vicinity of Otterbein Home. A generous offering is usually received, and expressions of gratitude by the recipients indicate the worth of this venture in community outreach.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is another outreach project. Special monetary gifts from residents are channeled thru the church to assist with the cost. A charge is made for the food to those who can afford it. This gives the recipient a degree of independence rather than a feeling of receiving charity.

The meals are prepared in the Otterbein Home kitchen and transported to persons who cannot cook for themselves and are unable to leave home for meals.

Lebanon U.M. church members have been most faithful in providing transportation without cost.

APPEALS FOR CHARITIES: UNITED APPEAL

For several years only two appeals for

contributions to county or national charities have been made thru the church. In April and September envelopes are distributed thru the mail. Each envelope bears a list of the organizations to benefit. The April appeal is for special charities such as Arthritis Foundation, Cancer Fund, Crippled Children's Fund, Epilepsy, Heart Fund, March of Dimes and Muscular Dystrophy.

United Appeal in September, includes 14 causes represented in Warren County, some of them of national scope, having local chapters.

By means of these two opportunities, residents can contribute without being approached on numerous occasions by separate appeals. Contributions may be made anonymously, if desired, thru the envelopes, and there is no embarrassment if a resident with limited funds, can make only a small donation.

MISCELLANY

Two services each Sunday were begun December 1, 1974. Attendance had become so great that the chapel could not accommodate all of the worshipers at one time. By 1977 the worship attendance grew to more than 300 each Sunday.

There was also the matter of food service. Most residents from the village are entitled to eat Sunday dinner in the dining room. Not all of them, plus those from the personal care areas, can be accommodated at one time by food service. Dinner service begins at 11 o'clock, after dismissal of the congregation from the 10 o'clock service, and continues until the second congregation is

accommodated.

Whether or not to return to one service only, has been a matter of discussion in Administrative Board meetings several times. The practical question of seating all at one time in the chapel, as well as those who eat the Sunday noon meal in the dining room, has indicated desirability of continuing two services.

The choir remains for the second service, until after the anthem, then retires and its members are free to go to the dining room. Since choir members enter the cafeteria line after the 10 o'clock group has been served, and before the 11 o'clock people are dismissed, the dining room situation is eased.

CAMPUS WORKERS FELLOWSHIP

The first Campus Workers' Fellowship was encouraged by the church. It was later known as the Employees' Fellowship, an independent organization, primarily promoting acquaintance and fellowship among all employees of the Home. The Fellowship in turn made numerous contributions to projects which have added to the convenience and comfort of Home residents. This organization no longer exists.

ADDENDA

· Otterbein Home before 1973

First members of Otterbein Home had been church members in their home communities. They had been here no more than three months when they organized a Sunday School in July 1913. The church was organized in June 1914,

with Dr. J.R. King, superintendent of the Home, as the first pastor. He served for six years.

At the first official board meeting it was decided to begin weekly collections and to try to raise \$50 by the end of the year. Two-fifths of the amount raised was to be used for local expenses, three-fifths to be applied to quotas assigned by denominational headquarters.

Services were held each Sunday in the large living room on second floor of the Center Brick, now known as Bethany. Chairs were purchased. Pictures in old Annuals of the Otterbein Home show wooden chairs with high, straight backs, such as were used around kitchen dining tables of that period.

REV. J.P. HENDRIX

It was not until 1920 that a pastor was assigned from Ohio Miami U.B. conference to the Otterbein Home church. Rev. J.P. Hendrix served thru 1923. He received \$35 monthly salary at first, but it was increased to \$40 the second year.

In addition to his duties as pastor, Rev. Hendrix was principal of the Otterbein Home school. Besides these conventional duties, he coached basketball, and led a children's band. This band achieved considerable recognition and once played a concert at Memorial Hall, Dayton. Some trophies that the athletic teams won are on display in a glass case on lower level of Campus Center.

Rev. Hendrix had no automobile. After conducting Sunday evening Christian Endeavor in the Center Brick, he would walk to Good Samaritan to conduct a service for residents

who were unable to come to the chapel earlier in the day. Good Samaritan stood opposite the present entrance to Armco Park.

When he had business in Lebanon, Rev. Hendrix walked to town. Occasionally when he needed to go to Dayton he walked to Franklin to take the interurban, and walked home after returning to Franklin.

Rev. Hendrix served pastorates at New Madison, Brookville, Oakwood in Dayton, Lewisburg and Fletcher, after leaving Otterbein Home church. He retired from the ministry about 1960. He returned a few years later to conduct a week-long preaching mission just before Easter.

In February 1970 he and his wife, Martha, moved to Otterbein Home to live. Rev. Hendrix died here July 28, 1970 at age 76. His memorial service was held at Fletcher with Rev. Murn Klepinger (Buckeye court) officiating, with Rev. Kyle S. Phipps and Rev. Charles Peckham assisting.

Mrs. Hendrix remained at Otterbein Home until her death, January 14, 1973. Both are buried in Roselawn Cemetery, Lewisburg, Ohio.

REV. W.I. COMFORT

Rev. W.I. Comfort, husband of Vivian Comfort, brother of Marie Comfort, was assigned to the Otterbein Home church in 1930 and served thru 1932.

After serving several other pastorates, and his retirement, he and Vivian came July 7, 1971 to live in Maple Court where Vivian still lives. Rev. Comfort died at Otterbein

January 10, 1974.

Vivian Comfort is also a minister, holding a certificate from the U.B. denomination. In the pastorates where her husband served she led choirs, played organ and actively assisted in all aspects of church work.

Marie Comfort lives in Asbury Hall. She taught at Roosevelt High School, Dayton, until retirement. She formerly lived at Vandalia, where her father, Rev. M.I. Comfort was pastor for several years.

OTHER PASTORS

Between 1914 and 1966 the church had 21 pastors. Some of them stayed only one year, others two or three years. Longest terms were those of J.R. King, first pastor and superintendent of the Home, six years. C.W. Snyder remained for seven years. The longest service was that of E.S. Comrey, eight years, 1947-54 inclusive.

NEW LOCATION

When the new school building across the road was finished in 1921, church services were transferred. The church again furnished chairs for the auditorium, at a cost of about \$1500.

In 1935 Phillippi building was completed, including a new chapel. Services were held there until the move to Campus Center chapel in 1973. Seating in Phillippi was in chairs, then pews donated by Fairview church, Dayton, then in chairs now in use in the Campus

Center chapel.

By December 1921 the church had 157 members, and Sunday School enrollment was reported as 250, including children, of course.

Originally it was thought that the Otterbein church would be a center of nearby community outreach, but as the Home grew, the church became almost entirely made up of members of the Home.

PHILLIPPI WINDOW GLASS

After Phillippi chapel was no longer used and plans were drawn for completely remodeling the building, colored glass windows in the chapel were removed.

Mrs. R.T. Mowry of Lakewood, Ohio, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Overturf, has made numerous leaded glass window ornaments from this glass. In addition to human figures and various fruit and flower forms, she has created a clock housing, lamp shades, and other articles from the same material. These items have found ready sale thru the Hobby Lobby and Country Store, and at the annual Fish Fry, and especially around Christmas time.

